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FOREST PEST REPORTER

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Gypsy Moth Spraying Successful

and without incident

The Cooperative Gypsy Moth Aerial Suppression Program was completed on May 19th without incident. The spraying with *Bacillus thuringiensis*, was applied to 4,480 acres in 18 municipalities located in seven southern counties in just four operational days. Despite the delays caused earlier by unusually cold spring temperatures, there were no incidents of "Off Target" spraying, no complaints of schoolchildren being sprayed, no reports of any skips, and no aircraft mechanical problems. Surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment have begun and thus far the results appear excellent with no homeowner complaints of defoliation in the treatment areas.

GYPSY MOTH DEFOLIATION LOWEST IN 30 YEARS

The gypsy moth sketch mapping survey of the entire state showed a 93 percent reduction in gypsy moth defoliation bringing the acres defoliated to 1,910 acres, which is the lowest amount in 30 years. There were only ten municipalities where defoliation was spotted in the seven southern counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Middlesex and Ocean (See Table 1 and Figure 1). The combination of aerially treating residential hot spots with *Bacillus thuringiensis*, and the cool wet springs favoring the potent fungus, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, have contributed greatly to the decline of gypsy moth populations across the state.

SYCAMORE ANTHRACNOSE WIDESPREAD AND SEVERE THIS SPRING

The cold wet spring caused a resurgence of leaf blight disease of sycamore and London plane trees across the state using severe defoliation of the trees. Anthracnose leaf blight results from a direct infection of the leaves by the fungus, *Apiognomonia veneta*, which is favored by wet spring weather. Leaves infected by the fungus turn brown and drop prematurely. From mid-May to mid-June the trees have little or no healthy foliage. This is the worst damage experienced in more than three years but the trees are expected to refoliate by late June with some branch dieback in the crown.

GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM STAFF:

Bureau Chief - John Kegg
Entomologist - Joseph Zoltowski
Senior Inspector - William Fehr, Sr.
Secretary - Jacqueline Thomas

ASIAN LONG HORNED BEETLE SURVEY STARTED

The Division is cooperating with the USDA, APHIS, PPQ and the NJ DEP, Bureau of Forestry, in a survey looking for trees infested with Asian long horned beetle (ALB), *Anoplophora glabripennis*, in New Jersey. Approximately 330 sites will be checked in neighborhoods and wooded areas in the northern and central regions of the state by November 30, 1997.

The Division received a report form USDA, APHIS, PPQ, that California Department of Food and Agriculture inspectors discovered live ALB in wooden crates containing machinery shipped from China. The same equipment was shipped to an individual in Cream Ridge, NJ. Damage of the type caused by ALB was found in the wooden crates in Cream Ridge, but no live beetles were found. The site in Cream Ridge will be checked periodically for the next few years to determine whether ALB has become established in the State.

Table 1. Results of the 1997 Gypsy Moth Aerial Survey. NJDA.

	Degree of Defoliation			
County Municipality	**Moderate (30-50%)**	**Heavy (51-70%)**	**Severe (71-100%)**	**Acreage Totals**
Atlantic (335 Ac.)				
Estelle Manor Twp.	295	0	0	**295**
Hamilton Twp.	40	0	0	**40**
Burlington (170 Ac.)				
Southampton Twp.	0	70	0	**70**
Tabernacle Twp.	60	40	0	**100**
Camden (45 Ac.)				
Voorhees Twp.	45	0	0	**45**
Cumberland (1,055 Ac.)				
Maurice River	365	440	250	**1,055**
Gloucester (30 Ac.)				
Franklin Twp.	30	0	0	**30**
Middlesex (150 Ac.)				
East Brunswick Twp.	0	0	150	**150**
Ocean (125 Ac.)				
Berkeley Twp.	70	0	0	**70**
Lakewood Twp.	55	0	0	**55**
Totals: 10 Municipalities	**960**	**550**	**400**	**1,910**